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Police seek 2 suspects in sexual assault

INVESTIGATION Ottawa police are investigating a reported sexual assault that occurred in the city's east end on Saturday.

At around 1:30 p.m., two males, one armed with a knife, attacked a woman in her 20s while she was walking on a pathway between Coventry Road and Hardy Street, near the St. Laurent Shopping Mall.

The victim was knocked to the ground, held down, and inappropriately touched. The men also attempted to steal the victim's purse.

When a man walking a dog in the area noticed the assault and shouted at the men, they fled in an older-model beige car.

The victim sustained minor injuries as a result of the attack.

Both suspects are described as black men in their 30s or 40s.

One was around 5-foot-8, with a muscular build and short black hair.

The other suspect was balding with a medium build.

METRO OTTAWA

Celebrity Buzz pg 14



Kate expecting another child?

Your Money pg 7

Work smarter, not harder

Health pg 9

Better skin in a week's time

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ottawalatters@metronews.ca



Canada's Thomas Hickey celebrates with goaltender Dustin Tokarski, left, after defeating Sweden 5-1 last night at Scotiabank Place in the gold-medal game of the world junior hockey championship. Canadian juniors have won five straight gold medals.

High five!

Canada takes world junior title with win over Sweden

Five and counting.

Team Canada won its fifth gold medal in a row at the world junior hockey championship last night, taking a first-period lead on defenceman P.K. Subban's second effort just 38 seconds into the game and riding the goaltending of a suddenly hot Dustin Tokarski.

Angelo Esposito scored a beauty on a backhand in the second period, Cody Hodgson let rip a wrist shot on the power play in the third, and Jordan Eberle and Hodgson scored into an empty net in a 5-1 win over Sweden, which takes

home silver for the second year in a row.

There may have been doubts — about Canada's goaltending or defence, or that the law of averages would eventually catch up and end this streak. But there was never any doubt about Canada's hockey heart.

Tokarski himself showed it. Shaky in every outing before last night, the netminder faced 40 shots from a Swedish offence that wouldn't let up and gained even more jump when Joakim Andersson scored at 8:30 of the third. But Tokarski

Attendance record

• The crowd of 20,380 at Scotiabank Place — who jeered Swedish defenceman Victor Hedman and goalie Jacob Markstrom all night — was a new single-game attendance record for the world juniors, bringing total attendance for the event to 453,282, also a record.

stood tall and was named player of the game.

John Tavares was named the tournament's most valuable player and a first-

team all-star. He was joined on the all-star team by Hodgson and Subban. The other forward was Russia's Nikita Filatov. Filling out the squad: Swedish defenceman Erik Karlsson and Slovakia goalie Jaroslav Janus.

All that pre-game chest-thumping and trash talk about pooping pants led to an emotionally charged, penalty-filled and wildly entertaining gold-medal game. When time expired, the Canadians charged Tokarski in glee, tickertape rained down from the rafters and the fans chanted "Ca-na-da!"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario to aid job growth, automakers

LOANS From high-tech firms to the strapped automakers, Ontario will lend billions of dollars to promote and protect job growth in harsh economic times, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

Eight Ontario high-tech ventures will receive \$500,000 each in government loans to promote green job creation, McGuinty announced yesterday at his first news conference of the year.

The loans will flow to the ventures as part of Ontario's Investment Accelerator Fund, a \$29-million fund created

three years ago to help boost high-tech firms into the global marketplace.

"We are laying the foundation for the Ontario economy of tomorrow," McGuinty said at a news conference at Centennial College's applied research and innovation centre in Scarborough.

"These are cases if they didn't get the money from us, they wouldn't get it from anyone else," he said.

Also yesterday, McGuinty reaffirmed his commitment to loaning the automakers money.

The Canadian arms of Chrysler and General Motors will get up to \$4 billion in loans from the federal and Ontario governments. Bleak sales figures this week show sales plummeted by 21.2 per cent, or 25,000 vehicles, in December from the same time last year.

The firms receiving money are Toronto's REGEN Energy Inc., Echologics Engineering Inc., Kneebone Inc., Nulogy Corp., Skymeter Corp. and Sysomos Inc.; and Hamilton's C2C Link Corp. Ottawa's IPeak Networks Inc. will also get loans.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In its first time competing in the tournament, a team of 82 students from the University of Ottawa Telfer School of Management won the 2009 Commerce Games, one of Canada's largest interuniversity competitions. More than 1,200 participants and volunteers from 13 universities competed for two days. **METRO OTTAWA**

Local



Rideau Hall rink open to public

Move over Rideau Canal — the historic skating rink at Rideau Hall has officially opened for another season. Governor General Michaëlle Jean announced yesterday the rink, built in the 1870s on the grounds of her official residence, will welcome members of the public Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. without reservations. Organized groups need reservations. But leave your hockey sticks and pucks at home — the rink is for pleasure skating only. **METRO OTTAWA**

Union says buses may stay parked

Officials say it's likely Thursday's vote will be rejected by members

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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The city's latest contract offer will be overwhelmingly rejected when the 2,300 striking OC Transpo employees vote on it Thursday, according to many union members coming out of an information session yesterday.

"It should lose by around 90 per cent. That's what it looks like," said one OC Transpo employee after the meeting. "It's going to be just as strong or even better than last time. The members understand what we lose and what we gain here."

Almost 2,000 members packed the hall at St. Elias church for a closed-door meeting to hear from union leaders.

Amalgamated Transit Union International vice-president Randy Graham said if the vote had been tak-



Andre Cornellier, centre, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279, looks on while ATU international vice-president Randy Graham, right, fields questions on their way out of an information session attended by almost 2,000 striking OC Transpo employees yesterday.

en yesterday, a large majority of members would have rejected the offer.

"There was not much of a

difference from the first offer. That was concurred with by many of our members today and that will be reflected

when we speak to you on Thursday," said Graham.

Outside the meeting, no OC Transpo employees sug-

gested they would accept the city's latest offer. Many shouted "No!" as they left the meeting.

At the city's request, federal Labour Minister Rona Ambrose ordered the union to hold the vote before Jan. 9. Ottawa city buses have been parked since Dec. 10 and there has been little indication either side has moved toward resolving the strike.

ATU Local 279 president Andre Cornellier said members showed yesterday they are prepared to dig in for the long haul.

"They will speak on Thursday. Whatever that vote is will say, 'Yes, we are prepared,' or 'No, we're not prepared,'" said Cornellier.

A strong No vote should encourage the city and the union to return to the negotiating table, Cornellier said.

The vote will be held Thursday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Results will be announced late Thursday.

Industrial board

- If striking OC Transpo workers vote No to the city's latest contract offer, the Canada Industrial Relations Board, which was directed by federal Labour Minister Rona Ambrose to hold the vote, will simply send the results on to the minister. However, if the board determines there are public health and safety issues involved, it could order certain bus routes to resume service.

- The board has asked members of the public for comments by Friday on whether the 27-day strike has affected public health or safety. However, the board cannot comment on what those specific issues might be.

- OC Transpo buses cross the provincial border when they travel into Quebec, so they fall under federal jurisdiction. Combined with new provisions in the Labour Code, the board is working in new territory with this strike.

**KATHRYN YOUNG/
FOR METRO OTTAWA**

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blog Mourners at hockey player's funeral sing him one last Christmas carol at metronews.ca/canada
Analysis Nano-technology is changing the way we live at metronews.ca/canada
Read Stripes asks if MPs are earning those fat paycheques at metro.news.ca



Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 8 5 8; **Ontario Pick 4:** 6 3 4 7
Encore: 6201086
Daily Keno: 2, 5, 8, 9, 18, 21, 23, 24, 30, 32
33, 35, 43, 47, 50, 51, 57, 60, 61, 66
These results are not official.

Economy takes gold with estimated \$50M boost

KATHRYN YOUNG
for Metro Ottawa

Regardless of final results for the hockey players, the City of Ottawa posted a big win by hosting the world junior championship, with an estimated \$50 million injected into the local economy.

The final tally won't be available for another three weeks, but Phil Legault, co-director of communications for the host organizing committee, said he expected to beat Vancouver's 2006 total of \$41 million by a considerable margin.

Some 25,000 people

have arrived in the city and spent money on food, hotel rooms, entertainment, souvenirs and transportation for the tournament since it began on Dec. 26.

"We've already broken the attendance record set in Vancouver 2006, of 374,000," Legault said.

Ottawa's total attendance for the International Ice Hockey Federation tournament involving 10 teams and 31 games should be about 455,000 — a 22 per cent increase. "Without question (we're pleased).



"Clearly, there's been an impact. The city has benefited immensely."

Noel Buckley, president of Ottawa Tourism

The capacity will finish at about 98 per cent."

Since Canada made it all the way to the final, even non-hockey fans were paying attention.

"With the team winning, there's more people watching television and broadcasts," said Noel Buckley, president of Ottawa Tourism.

"Clearly, there's been an impact," Buckley added. "The city has benefited immensely."

Apart from the direct eco-

nomie boost, the city also got two weeks of international television exposure.

"Just from the public relations aspect alone, it's been beneficial," Buckley said. With 300 media people in town showing images of Ottawa and talking about the city, viewers may consider visiting.

Ottawa also proved it can successfully host large events, so organizers of future conventions may consider holding events here.

While the strike by OC

Transpo workers threw a wrench into transportation plans, the organizers, volunteers, players and the public managed to cope well, Legault said. And the strike may even have helped — with many fans carpooling and arriving early to games to ease traffic congestion, restaurants and entertainment venues around Lansdowne Park and Scotiabank Place would have benefited from increased sales.

"I would certainly think it would increase," said Legault.

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Charges laid in connection with New Year's Day fire

A 25-year-old Gatineau woman faces four arson-related charges after a New Year's Day fire at the Radisson Hotel on Queen Street sent four people to hospital. Melissa White appeared in court early Sunday morning, said an Ottawa police news release. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Sweet treat **A break on the canal**

Dany Lafontaine and Julie Gosselin, both from Gatineau, share a Beavertail while taking a break from skating on the Rideau Canal Skateway last night. Thousands of people have taken to the ice since a two-kilometre stretch between Pretoria Bridge and Bank Street opened on New Year's Day. National Capital Commission spokesperson Julie Rocheleau said crews are working to prepare the rest of the canal, but there are still sections where the ice is too thin and it is impossible to predict when it would be ready.

Joy ride ends in arrests

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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CHARGES Two Ottawa women appeared in court yesterday after a stolen vehicle allegedly struck two police cruisers and finally crashed into a light post.

Around 1:50 a.m. on Sunday, Ottawa police attempted to stop the stolen vehicle in Centretown, but the vehicle struck one of the police cruisers and a brief pursuit ensued.

In the interest of public safety, the pursuit was called off near Sussex Avenue and St. Patrick Street.

Police picked up the vehicle again near St. Patrick Street and King Edward Av-

enue where the vehicle rammed another police cruiser and fled. Police did not chase the vehicle then, but they found it again in Vanier where the driver reportedly struck several street signs and a light post, then lost control at the Vanier Parkway and McArthur Avenue.

Both occupants of the vehicle attempted to flee the scene on foot, but were apprehended by police.

Manon Bastien, 33, was charged with 13 offences, including dangerous driving, impaired driving and failing to remain at the scene of a collision.

Laura Schinck, 24, was charged with being the occupant of a stolen vehicle.

Report calls for assessment of proposed bridge

KATHRYN YOUNG
for Metro Ottawa



Kettle Island is still technically the best place to build a new bridge over the Ottawa River, but the final recommendation, released yesterday by consulting firm ROCHE-NCE, said public pressure has resulted in a detailed environmental assessment of the site for the next phase.

"This study will explain how effects on the environment will be reduced," said the report written for the National Capital Commission and the transportation ministries of Ontario and Quebec.

However, the term "environment" refers not just to the natural environment, but also to the socio-economic and cultural environments and includes such issues as traffic, noise and vibration, air quality, fisheries, botanical, archaeological heritage, property impact and landscaping along the corridors leading up to the bridge, said Steve Taylor, project manager for the study at ROCHE-NCE.

"There are still some issues along this corridor," Taylor said. "But it's our advice that all those issues can be mitigated. There's still a lot of work to be done. The design isn't finalized."

The potential site at Kettle Island was announced in September, followed by public consultations with 931 people at two events. In total, 1,688 submissions were made, with comments also received via let-

Recommended

Some recommendations made by the study include:

- Modifying the Aviation Parkway-Queensway-Highway 174 interchange
- Widening Aviation Parkway to a divided four-lane road
- A new intersection with the Rockcliffe Parkway
- Building a new bridge with 200-metre spans over the navigation channel
- Providing a new road link from the bridge to Maloney Boulevard
- Widening Montee Paie ment over Autoroute 50 to four lanes

ters, website and telephone. Due to that public input, the final report includes the promise to investigate ways to enhance the environment "to receive the appropriate approvals and meet legislative requirements."

But it will be about three years before that step is complete.

The report will be presented to the Ottawa and Gatineau city councils later this month, Taylor said.

The report assessed 10 potential crossing sites for a bridge, tunnel or ferry, concluding that a bridge at Kettle Island is the best option.

The study recommends increasing transit ridership, installing sidewalks and bike lanes on the new bridge and existing bridges to increase walking and cycling, and improvements to existing bridges so they can take more vehicles.

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Canada



Expensive extension

Toronto city council yesterday approved a seven-kilometre, \$2.5-billion extension to the city's Yonge subway line. The proposal has been sent to the Ontario government. If the province will help fund the plan, the subway will be extended in the suburb of Richmond Hill by 2017.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Flaherty meets with top bankers

Federal finance minister urges Canadian banks to make credit available

Canada's finance minister and central bank chief met with the country's top bank executives yesterday to prod them to loosen up lending, officials said.

A spokesman for Finance Minister Jim Flaherty confirmed the meeting took place early yesterday. Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney also attended, according to his spokesman.

Neither would comment on the meeting.

Flaherty will speak to reporters this morning, prior to pre-budget consultations in Montreal, and is expected to comment then

"Banks are trying to fill the gap, but we're not able to take up all the slack."

Nancy Hughes Anthony,
Canadian Bankers Association

on the talks with the banks.

The head of the Canadian Bankers Association, who also attended the meeting, said Flaherty expressed concern about the availability of credit for businesses and individuals.

"We assured the minister that the banks are committed to doing what they can to help Canada weath-

er any recession and that they will continue to lend to credit-worthy individuals and businesses," Nancy Hughes Anthony, president and chief executive of the CBA, said in a statement.

Hughes Anthony said banks represent only half the credit market for small and mid-sized businesses and that non-bank funding

sources to these businesses are the ones that have been curbing their lending.

"Banks are trying to fill the gap, but we're not able to take up all the slack from other providers," she said.

She defended the Canadian banks' prudent lending practices and said it was best to stick to those practices, protecting depositors' money.

It was also reported yesterday that Flaherty would discuss with the banks a range of proposals under consideration to ease cred-

it conditions.

The proposals, which could potentially be worked into the Jan. 27 budget, include the government acting as guarantor for different types of loans, in addition to its traditional role as guarantor of mortgages.

Ottawa could also provide tax incentives for investors to buy preferred shares in banks, as an alternative way to raise financing with reduced risk, a newspaper report said, citing people briefed on the agenda.

REUTERS

Ontario man runs for top Puntland office

SOMALIA A Mississauga, Ont., man running for president of Puntland, an Islamic state within Somalia at the Horn of Africa, promises to end piracy against international shipping by creating jobs.

Adam Esse said pirates would rather fish or do other work rather than raid ships and hold them for ransom.

Stopping the piracy that is disrupting shipping and terrorizing sailors in the Gulf of Aden re-



Adam Esse

quires basic development that would lead to other jobs, Esse said by phone yesterday from the capital, Garowe.

"I want to become president to change the bad situation that we have over here in terms of security, stability, the economy, education and equality between the genders."

Man to appeal shaken-baby case

ONTARIO A man convicted nearly 14 years ago in the death of his two-month-old son says he "did nothing" to harm the child but felt pressured to plead guilty after "the king" of pediatric forensic pathologists — the now disgraced Dr. Charles Smith — entered the case.

Richard Brant, 36, explains his actions in an affidavit filed for a hearing today in the Ontario Court of Appeal, where his lawyers will ask that he be allowed to appeal his 1995 conviction.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wife faces murder charges in death of kids, husband

QUEBEC Her voice was not weak, as might be expected, as it came through the speakerphone in the courtroom. On the line from her hospital bed, she coughed twice and simply said "yes," she could hear the judge well and, "yes," she understood the charges against her.

Cathie Gauthier-Lachance, 36, the only survivor of what police have called a suicide pact undertaken with her husband to kill their children and then themselves, was arraigned yesterday on first-degree murder charges of her three young children, and in a last-minute addition,

'Devastated'

- Police said they had collected enough evidence to recommend charges even before they finally interviewed Gauthier-Lachance yesterday. Her lawyer, Dominic Bouchard, described her state-of-mind as "devastated."

the assisted suicide of her husband, 46-year-old Marc Laliberté.

The bodies of Laliberté and the children, 12-year-old Joelle, seven-year-old Marc-Ange, Louis-Philippe, 4, are undergoing autopsies in Montreal.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto York strike drags on



York University teacher's assistant and 3903 union executive member Ben Nelson, left, joined a group of students and teacher's assistants at a sit-in protest in front of the York University presidents' office yesterday afternoon. Students and union members are asking for negotiations to be expediated between the university and the striking members.

News in brief

DONATIONS Hammered by the economic downturn, Canadian charities are urging the federal government to create incentives in the upcoming budget to encourage rich donors to give

more during tough times. A group of charities yesterday urged Ottawa to exempt gifts of private company shares and real estate from the capital gains tax.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Clinton's chief of staff picked as Obama's CIA head

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama has chosen Leon Panetta, who was White House chief of staff for Bill Clinton, to lead the CIA, Democratic officials said yesterday. Outside of his stint in the White House, where he served between 1994 and 1997, Panetta has relatively little experience in national security matters. **REUTERS**

World/Business

Israel ignores calls for truce

Israeli troops backed by air strikes fought to seize ground from Hamas militants deep inside the Gaza Strip yesterday, despite international calls for a ceasefire in a conflict that has killed more than 540 Palestinians in 10 days.

More than 33 civilians, including children, were killed yesterday, the third day of an Israeli ground offensive. Three Israeli soldiers were killed and about 20 were wounded by an Israeli tank shell fired in er-

ror, the military said.

A total of four soldiers have been killed since Israel launched the assault on Saturday. Israel said it killed dozens of Islamist guerrillas as the battle crept into the suburbs of the city of Gaza itself.

Israel's defence minister said the assault, which he hopes can stem rocket fire on its own towns, could get harder for troops. They were edging forward, wary of Hamas's quest for more captives to join a soldier

Onus is on Hamas: Bush

U.S. President George W. Bush insisted yesterday that any Gaza ceasefire must include provisions to prevent Hamas from using the coastal strip to fire rockets into Israel.

used as a bargaining chip since 2006.

Hamas threatened to fire more missiles into Israel. Threats of resuming suicide bombings had yet to materialize at press time.

Bush said he puts the onus on Hamas to end the violence, and stopped short of calling for an immediate halt to the fighting, as some European leaders have done.

REUTERS

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni speaks about the Mideast conflict at metronews.ca/world

Business

Worst month for auto sales since '03

Canada's auto market crashed during the holiday season, one more piece of evidence of a deepening recession.

Despite incentives, showroom sales plunged 21.2 per cent or more than 25,000 vehicles to 94,423 in December from the same month in 2007, manufacturers reported yesterday. The results marked the worst decline in auto sales for any month since 2003. It was also the lowest level for a December in 12 years.

The bleak December pulled down overall 2008 sales in Canada by 1.1 per cent, or more than 17,000 to 1.653 million cars and trucks. That followed three years of annual increases.

Analysts are forecasting

Hyundai

Hyundai Motor Co. has rolled out a new incentive program for U.S. consumers that allows them to return financed or leased vehicles within the first year of purchase if they lose income.

more big dents in the first half of this year before the market show some signs of a recovery.

Offshore-based manufacturers beat the Big Three in market share in Canada for the first time. They raised their share to 51.9 per cent from 48.3 per cent while GM, Ford and Chrysler slipped to 48.1 per cent from 51.7 per cent. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Dutch scientists create replica of SARS virus

HEALTH Dutch researchers have built a three-dimensional model of a type of virus that causes SARS in a step that could one day help in the battle against the deadly disease.

The model, created using hepatitis coronavirus from mice, will help scientists understand severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which appeared in China in 2002 and spread to other regions, including Toronto, where 43 people died. The disease killed some 800 people globally before being brought under control.

"I think we can translate what we found for this virus to the SARS virus," said Berend Jan Bosch, a virologist at Utrecht University who worked on the study. "If you are going to study the SARS virus, you will basically find the same features."

Coronaviruses cause diseases in animals and in people from the common cold to severe illness. They also cause SARS, which scientists believe, like influenza, initially came from an animal.

The 2002 outbreak of SARS is estimated to have cost as much as \$100 billion US. **REUTERS**

India Mourning procession



Shiite Muslims flagellate themselves during a Moharram procession yesterday in Ahmedabad. Muslims all over the world mourn the slaying of Imam Hussein, a grandson of Muhammad, during the first 10 days of the Islamic month of Moharram. Imam Hussein was killed by his political rivals along with 72 companions in Iraq some 1,300 years ago.

India gives Pakistan Mumbai evidence

ATTACKS India handed over evidence yesterday to Pakistan that it said linked Pakistani militants to the Mumbai attacks and demanded a prompt investigation, piling diplomatic pressure on its nuclear-armed rival.

India has blamed Pakistani militants for the November attacks, which killed 179 people and

reignited tension between the neighbours who have fought three wars since 1947, but this is the first time it has handed over evidence to Islamabad.

Foreign secretary Shiv Shankar Menon said it "beggars the imagination" that no Pakistani officials knew about preparations for the assault on India's financial hub.

The evidence included a confession from the man India says is the lone surviving gunman, details of communication links with "elements in Pakistan," and data retrieved from GPS and satellite phones, India's foreign ministry said.

Pakistan said it would look into the evidence.

REUTERS

Honda Civic overtakes Ford pickup as Canada's favourite

AUTOMOTIVE The Honda Civic compact has surpassed the Ford F-Series pickup truck to become Canada's most popular vehicle.

Sales of the Civic climbed two per cent to 72,463 while the F-Series pickup, which led the market for five consecutive years, slid eight per cent to 67,749 in 2008, the companies revealed yesterday.

It marks the first time in 15 years that a car — previously the Chevrolet Cavalier — has topped a truck as the country's best-selling vehicle.

Analysts say the Civic benefited from soaring fuel prices for most of the year while the popularity of pickups dropped because of higher gasoline costs. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Obama's tax cut package faces delays

STIMULUS U.S. president-elect Barack Obama went to the U.S. Capitol yesterday to press for swift passage of a huge spending and tax-cut package amid signs his centerpiece economic stimulus plan, expected to cost about \$775 billion US over two years, may face delays.

Democrats had hoped to have such a package ready for the new president to sign as soon as he takes office in two weeks. But they now say it will take at least a month or so longer to put together an initiative that can draw bipartisan support. **REUTERS**

Business in brief

WOOLWORTHS Shoppers hunted for bargains before the doors close at Woolworths, one of Britain's best known retailers and one of the first big-name businesses to fail in the global downturn. About 600 of the chain's 815 stores have already closed and the rest are set to close this week, with the loss of 27,000 jobs.

MADOFF More than 8,000 forms have been mailed to customers of accused swindler Bernard Madoff so they can make claims by March or July.

STEVE JOBS Apple Inc. chief executive Steve Jobs sought to soothe investor concerns about his health yesterday, saying his weight loss was caused by a hormone imbalance that is relatively simple to treat. **REUTERS**

News in brief

INTERNET More than half of teenagers mention risky behaviours on their MySpace accounts, U.S. researchers said yesterday. An analysis of 500 randomly selected 18-year-olds' accounts on the site showed 54 per cent of profiles

they checked contained information about high-risk behaviours: 41 per cent mentioned substance abuse, 24 per cent sexual behaviour and 14 per cent violence. The researchers said many young people who use networking sites do not re-

alize how public they are and may be opening themselves to risks.

CHINA The country has launched a crackdown on websites as it enters a politically sensitive year, with officials accusing search engines includ-

ing Baidu and Google of spreading pornography and vulgarity. A report on an official news website said repeat violators and those that had a "malign influence" might be exposed, punished or shut down. **REUTERS**

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Comment & Views

Comment

Back to the starting point

NationalReport



Lawrence Martin

Fair to say that a decade or two ago, we didn't care much about Afghanistan. Just another Third World basket case. Let the ethnic tribes there bloody one another up. Let superpowers try to harness it.

Then a couple things happened. The Taliban got singled out as being exporters of terrorism and as running a government even more medieval than other tribes. We had a general, the popular Rick Hillier, who was gung-ho on getting Canada back on war footing. We figured we owed the Americans some-

The Americans are getting set to send in new forces, which will more than compensate for Canadian withdrawals.

thing because we hadn't joined them in Iraq and hadn't agreed to their missile-defence program. So we sent troops to the Afghan hot zone of Kandahar.

The usual right-left debate ensued with one side rah rah on war and the other dubious. No foreign invader, many argued, had ever brought Afghanistan to heel, the list including Alexander the Great, the Mongols, the British Raj, the Soviet Union.

But as is normal in war, politicians and generals held to the line that progress was being made. We can't cut and run, they

said. And if you don't cheer for the war effort, you're not supporting our troops. In other words, the usual patriot games, some legitimate, some just plain old bullshine.

But today, there is a consensus that says that little or no progress has been made, that Afghanistan remains as it almost always has been — untamable. Canadians, smarter than their generals and politicians, were never really enthusiastic about this war. Now they're saying in polls that they

want their troops out before the deadline of 2011.

The Americans are getting set to send in new forces, which will more than compensate for Canadian withdrawals, if and when they occur. With this effort the new president, Barack Obama, will be able to prevent the Taliban from regaining power. But it will require his getting bogged down in a long war.

There will be more pressure from his White House for Canadians to stay on. But Canadians will have seen enough. They will turn back the clock. It will be just about as it was before. They won't care much about Afghanistan. They'll leave it to the Afghans and the superpowers — and save their soldiers from dying from roadside bombs.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

Views

Neutral the toughest stance on Mideast



Mona Eltahawy

Global View

I was born in Egypt during one war with Israel, have vivid memories of another war with Israel, and I was the first Egyptian to live and work in Israel for a Western news agency when I moved there from Cairo at the end of 1997 as a Reuters correspondent.

And here's the best piece of advice on the Middle East you will get today.

Sit on the fence.

Strange coming from an opinion writer who makes a living out of taking positions? Yes. But it's too easy to take sides in the Middle East conflict. Few other parts of the world inspire such passion or leave such little room for doubt. For many, choosing sides is

just an afterthought to their birthright: If you're an Arab, go join the Free Palestine demonstrations; and if you're Jewish, go join the Save Israel marches.

Don't forget, you can always throw God into the mix. Lay claim to your holy sites and you'll have religiously sanctioned wrath to fuel your rage.

But what's the point of choosing sides when both sides are losing? The real challenge when it comes to the Middle East is to sit on the fence and to understand that as with most chapters of this interminable conflict, civilians pay the most expensive price.

From that perch up there on the fence, keep your eyes firmly on Israeli and Palestinian civilians and ask about the responsibility of leaders to their

The hardest thing is to scream "Enough!" at a time when both sides seem bent on mutual destruction.

people.

The civilians of Gaza are victims of both Hamas and Israel.

The former have been more concerned with firing ineffectual rockets at southern Israel where they targeted the very group of people they are now accusing Israel of hurting the most in Gaza — civilians.

Israel has launched a punishing bombardment and invasion of Gaza that will be used as the latest proof that it is the neighbourhood bully. Its actions are bound to turn Hamas

into the very heroes they don't deserve to be and possibly unleash a new wave of unconscionable suicide bombings against Israeli civilians.

And all for what?

For those of us from the region, the easiest thing might be to follow our birthright to bias. But the hardest thing is to scream "Enough!" at a time when both sides seem bent on mutual destruction and when to criticize your side ensures accusations of being a sellout.

But I insist on staying on that fence and being a sellout for peace.

Stay on that fence with me and scream and yell for a ceasefire.

Enough violence.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS...
...PEOPLE SEEM SLIGHTLY LESS
FOCUSED ON THE ECONOMY.



Letters

Sanctioned violence in Canada's sport

Re: Police assist coroner investigating death of Whitby hockey player

It makes me sick inside that a family has lost a son due to the barbaric allowance of fighting in hockey. What I find totally offensive is the polarization of this ongoing debate in regards to the inclusion of fighting as part of Canada's game.

The usual suspects in the media have already come to the forefront that defend the need for fights in hockey and have attempted to eulogize the death of 21-year-old Don Sanderson as a freak result of an inherent danger linked with this sport. Those in the media who support fighting in hockey can rationalize all they want in regards to the odds of losing one's life in a hockey fight, but in the end there are more than enough examples of NHL players who have had their careers cut short and their quality of life affected to demonstrate the stupidity of allowing fights.

The passing of Don Sanderson could bring

common sense to the issue of safety in the only major sport that allows this kind of sanctioned violence.

DANIEL KOWBELL, TORONTO

So much for the economic meltdown

Re: Your year's pay a day's work for top CEOs (Jan. 2)

I was astounded to learn from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives that the salaries of Canada's top CEOs have reached unprecedented new heights.

So much for the economic meltdown. While these characters were dragging in bigger and bigger salaries, upwards of 70,000 Canadians lost their jobs. The rest of us are preparing to ride out the rough year ahead, while the country's top executives appear to be immune from any fallout.

Average CEO pay for the top 100 was up 22 per cent from its \$8.5 million average in 2006. In contrast, the earnings of average Canadians rose by only 3.2 per cent — the best increase in the past five years, but a fraction of the CEOs' and barely keeping up with inflation.

DANNY CAVANAGH, PRESIDENT
CUPE NOVA SCOTIA

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Work smarter, not harder



Being a Smart Cookie isn't just about finding ways to spend less and save more, it's about making more money, too. And just to be clear, we do not mean taking a job you hate because the paycheck's better. As we enter into 2009, we encourage you to find ways to attract more money into your life. And to get you started, here are a few Smart Cookie tips.

Turn your passion into a paycheck

With a little effort and creativity, it's possible to turn almost any pastime into a paycheck. For example, one of our Smart Cookies was interested in learning about and tasting new wines. She had a friend who started a business that offered wine tastings at company events and she offered to help out. This was a great opportunity for her to make extra cash, sample some wine and meet new people.

Why not make some money AND reap the benefits?

Consider taking on a part-time job at your favourite store — many retail stores hire extra employees to help out during their busy season. One of



One Smart Cookie got a job at her favourite furniture store (which offered employees a 40 per cent discount) and used the money she made working at the store to buy her discounted furnishings for her new condo.

us was furnishing a new condo, got a job at her favourite furniture store (which offered employees 40 per cent discount) and used the money she made working at the store to buy her discounted furnishings.

Clean out your clutter

Anything you haven't used in over a year, you no longer need! But rather than throwing these items away, why not find them a new home? One of the Smart Cookies makes about \$300 at the end of each season and puts that toward new clothes.

Another sold her wedding dress for \$800 on

craigslist.org. You can do the same with sporting equipment, toys, CDs, books, almost anything.

What about passive income?

There are ways to increase your monthly income, without lifting a finger. For example, if you pay monthly for a space in a garage, but you know your car will be gone during work

hours or you'll never use it, you can rent out your space during the weekdays to someone who works near your parking spot. Advertise the space on craigslist.org or in your local paper.

One of our Cookies rents

Anything you haven't used in over a year, you no longer need! ... Why not find them a new home?

out her space and earns an additional \$50 per month.

Consider contract work

If it's not a conflict with your full-time job, look for freelance or contract opportunities.

By utilizing her contacts, one of us was able to get additional contract work providing PR services for clients outside of her full-time job, earning an extra \$2,000 per month!

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

WILL RETURN

Enough talking, get walking

Q My new year's resolution is to get rich! Get into shape! Help the less privileged! Buy low, sell high! Quit smoking! Travel more! Win the lottery!

A You sit at your dining room table, pen and paper in hand, sipping coffee, with the fireplace crackling in the background. Pause a moment before making that new year's resolution list and glance at the crumpled, faded list from last year. How many were accomplished? If you are like a lot of Canadians — not many.

We have heard them all, from more money to losing weight to quitting smoking. Although, my accounting and tax background does not give me the qualifications to help you lose weight or quit smoking, its approach may not be much different. Here is some financial advice that many experts agree:

- Be realistic with resolutions. "I want to look like I did as a teenager!" Don't we all!
- Don't just "say," "do." The word resolution implies action. Resolutions cannot be accomplished without following through. Stop talking about joining a health club, just do it.
- As important as the resolution is having a plan for

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcg@yahoo.ca



Get out there and start tackling your dreams.

its execution. Without a plan, there will be no success. "This year, I would like to save for a house." Where will the savings come from? Create a cash-flow budget. Identify how you can increase income and where you can cut expenses.

- Set long-term goals but achievable objectives that can be measured periodically. For example: Lose four pounds a month. Pre-authorize monthly RRSP contributions. Set up automatic payments for investment.

Goals cannot be reached unless you reach for it!

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

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Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison won The Associated Press 2008 NFL Defensive Player of the Year award yesterday, after registering a team-record 16 sacks and leading the NFL with seven forced fumbles in the regular season. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Mourners salute hockey player

HOCKEY Don Sanderson was in a coma during Christmas, so hundreds of mourners solemnly sang a yuletide carol yesterday at the funeral for the 21-year-old hockey player who died following an on-ice fight in Brantford on Dec. 12.

Sanderson's mother, Dahna, cried as mournful strains of Silent Night filled a packed church outside Toronto.

"We loved him with all our hearts, and I don't know how we're going to move on without him," she said. "All I ask is each and every one of you love each and every one of your family members every day."

Sanderson, a rookie with the OHA's Whitby Dunlops, died Friday after being in a coma for almost a month. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Heisman winner a big Canucks fan

The top player in U.S. college football is a hockey fanatic. His favourite team — the Vancouver Canucks.

In fact, while in high school in Oklahoma City, quarterback Sam Bradford had a ritual in which he'd watch The Mighty Ducks movie and check out the latest Canucks' results before turning in for the night. "Hockey was and maybe still is my favourite sport to watch," said the Heisman Trophy winner, who will lead the No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners against the No. 2 Florida Gators in the BCS national championship game Thursday night. "I love the Canucks. (Vancouver goaltender) Roberto Luongo is outstanding."

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

• Spring training, believe it or not, begins next month. But one of baseball's premier sluggers remains a ManRam without a home. Not that **Manny Ramirez** isn't attracting interest.

"The problem," an MLB general manager told me yesterday, "isn't Manny. It's Manny's agent. He's ridiculous."

Scott Boras has long had a reputation for stubbornness. In Ramirez's case, the agent hasn't budged on demands for about \$20-million US a year, despite the

lamentable economy and his client's age (almost 37).

"Manny's one of the great hitters of our lifetime, a clutch batter who'd fit into the heart of every order in baseball," the aforementioned GM said. "And he might have an attitude issue, too, but the pros outweigh the cons for him. It's just his agent's stance that's hurting him now. If he had another representative, I'm sure he'd have a team by now."

Ramirez was a major boon on the field and at the box office for the Dodgers after they acquired him in a trade with the Boston Red Sox last season, and Los

Win for Wozniak

Fourth-seeded Aleksandra Wozniak, left, of Blainville, Que., beat Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-5 in the first round at the ASB Classic women's tennis tournament in New Zealand yesterday. All four seeded players progressed to the second round of the singles.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lindros calls

• Former NHL star Eric Lindros returned a call to Metro's Marty York yesterday but refused to clear up any of the mystery surrounding him. Visit metronews.ca/sports for more details.

ways has been an owner who's lost his mind when it comes to offers for players of Manny's calibre, but I strongly doubt it'll happen this time. The general consensus is that Boras is just too unreasonable."

• An athlete who has lowered his financial demands: **Shaquille O'Neal**.

In November, the NBA star listed his Miami Beach mansion for \$35million. His new asking price: \$25 mil.



Sam Bradford and Oklahoma play Florida for the BCS championship on Thursday.

Raptors Buck a winning trend



Toronto Raptors guard Willie Solomon picks up a loose ball and drives down court in Milwaukee against the Bucks last night. The Raptors lost 107-97, snapping a two-game win streak.

Sports in brief

MLB The Chicago Cubs have reportedly signed outfielder Milton Bradley to a three-year contract. The Chicago Tribune is reporting that the deal is believed to be worth \$30 million US and should be finalized this week. Apparently, the Cubs are trying to move right-hander Jason Marquis to Colorado for right-handed reliever Luis Vizcaino to free up money for Bradley. That deal could be announced as early as today.

MLB The Tampa Bay Rays have signed outfielder Pat Burrell to a two-year deal. Financial terms were not released, but numerous reports have stated that the contract will be worth \$16 million US. Burrell hit .250 with 33 home runs and drove in 86 runs for the world champion Phillies last season. He had spent his entire nine-year career in Philadelphia, averaging 31 homers and 99 RBI over the past four seasons. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Russia 5 Slovakia 2

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Minnesota at Boston, 7
Philadelphia at Washington, 7
New Jersey at Carolina, 7
Florida at Toronto, 7:30
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Between meals

If you go too long between meals, drink half a cup of juice to stabilize blood sugar levels before you eat to back your body up from its "starvation" mode. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

The good-skin fix

Resolutions: Start with your complexion

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

Turns out that focusing on better skin nutrition can help meet at least three 2009 resolutions: 1) to spend less, 2) to lose weight, and 3) to get on a less stressful, healthy-living track.

"The skin is a good indicator of what's going on inside," says Dr. Joey Shulman, D.C., registered nutritionist and author of *The Natural Makeover Diet: 4 Steps to Inner Health and Outer Beauty*. "For example, if you eat too many pro-inflammatory foods, such as sugar, refined flour, fried food, alcohol and saturated fats, you'll wake up looking puffy and red."

Rather than pricey "miracle" products or procedures, the good-skin fix can be as simple and budget friendly as a diet change, which, in addition to improving skin (in as little as a week), could improve the numbers on your bathroom scale. "Replace the bad stuff with dark leafy greens, broccoli, spinach, winter squash, carrots, sweet potatoes — vitamin A-rich foods," says Shulman.

Naturopath Dr. Alan Logan, author of *The Clear Skin Diet* and research-

and-development co-ordinator for Genuine Health, agrees. "In North America, 50 percent of consumed vegetables is potato (mostly frozen), onion, iceberg lettuce and processed tomato. We need more colourful fruit and veg, such as blueberries, fresh tomatoes and kale. The deeper the colour of the produce, the more dense it is in polyphenols, naturally-occurring antioxidants."

Omega-3 fatty acid-rich foods also rank high in the good-skin eating plan because, say Shulman and Logan, they boost skin's natural moisture levels. Shulman recommends cold-water fish, nuts, and seeds, as well as omega-3 fortified eggs and milk. Another hydrating must is water. Shulman suggests

green or white tea as alternatives. "They're anti-inflammatory and high in antioxidants, plus white tea can help deal with sugar cravings because it's on the sweet side."

According to Logan, green tea and fish oil both help reduce levels of cortisol, a hormone the body releases under stress. "Cortisol attacks collagen, the scaffolding of the skin," he says. "Fish is skin's best friend. Orally consumed fish collagen also provides the body with raw materials to manufacture the collagen skin needs," he adds.

Dr. Michael Davies, a dermatologist at SpaMedica in Toronto, says "a well-balanced diet is best, but supplements can help when we can't get what we need." He recom-

mends, and himself takes, daily doses of 1000mg of vitamin D (available at drugstores). "The fact is that a whole day in the sun without protection won't produce enough natural vitamin D," he says. "Wear sunscreen; take the supplement."

Study tests skin supplements

Other supplements that can act as a diet safety net, especially in times of stress, are Genuine Health greens+ Healthy Skin, Perfect Skin and O3mega+glow. A University of Toronto clinical study released last month suggests greens+supplements, by lowering acidity in

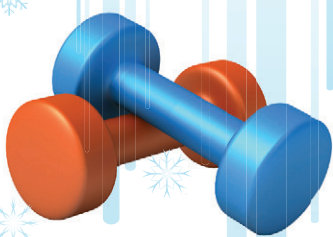
the body, may help decrease cortisol. Imedeem is another skin supplement brand with clinical trials behind its ingredients. As well as collagen-boosters, a key component is lycopene, a powerful antioxidant found in fresh tomatoes.

JANINE FALCON
/FOR METRO CANADA



Rather than pricey "miracle" products or procedures, a good-skin fix can be as simple and budget friendly as a diet change, including vitamin A and omega-3 fatty acid-rich foods.

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Nutritionist shares tips for optimizing fat loss

DIET Nutritionist Suzanne Carere's tips for fat loss:

- Don't eat carbs at night — your body can't burn them and they turn right to fat.
- Fruit contains mostly

sugar and carbs, albeit healthy ones, so eat them only in the morning. Switch to vegetables in the afternoon and evening.

- Snack frequently. This

releases sugar more slowly in your bloodstream, preventing spikes and crashes in your energy.

- Eat small snacks of protein through the day.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Automatic sex?

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey

An announcement just before the holidays that British scientists were developing an implant to stimulate pleasure centres in the brain caused the usual flurry of headlines that every new scientific solution to our seemingly increasingly lousy sex lives seems to cause.

Headlines everywhere announced the discovery of a so-called "super sex chip" that was set to turn us all on at the flip of a switch.

Never mind that the implant is meant for people who suffer from "anhedonia," a condition I'd never even heard of until now, but that apparently results in an inability to enjoy or experience pleasure from such activities as eating and sex.

Or that the currently "intrusive and crude" technology requires surgery to connect a wire from a heart pacemaker into the brain and needs about 10 years worth of development.

Blame Woody Allen for launching our obsession with instant sexual satisfaction. He introduced the "Orgasmatron" in his cheesy 1973 movie Sleeper, a phone-booth-like machine that induced instant orgasms in those who en-



With the advent of a new implant meant to stimulate pleasure centres in the brain, our columnist asks: 'Whatever happened to good old-fashioned seduction?'

tered. Since then, we've been on a mission to find a quick-fix, effortless solution to our sexual dissatisfaction.

Viagra, of course, has been the star of the show; the magic blue pill that had formerly sexually unsatisfied couples suddenly dancing down the street and singing.

And, when the makers of Viagra didn't succeed in coming up with a female version, others stepped in and pharmaceutical labs are currently hard at work developing a nasal spray, an injection, and a pill to treat female sexual dysfunction, a condition that didn't even exist a decade ago.

I sympathize with men and women who experience legitimate sexual problems, in some cases as a result of

physical or psychological issues. But the drive to find a magical scientific solution to boost our flaccid sex drives is disturbing.

Whatever happened to good old-fashioned seduction? Bah, who has time for that these days? That requires effort and communication and actually doing some things that reawaken your sexual self.

A pill would be so much easier. But the fact is, even if a pill or an implant or a spray can stimulate desire or guarantee an erection or an orgasm, it can't guarantee good sex.

That requires some good old-fashioned elbow grease.

Or at least a good lube.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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NEW YEAR AND A NEW TOOTHBRUSH

The calendar has now turned and we have moved into 2009. We make so many changes to improve our lives when we move into a new year. May we suggest that one of those changes is a new toothbrush.

We always recommend that people change their toothbrushes at least every 3 to 6 months. However, if you have just recovered from a fight with a cold or flu, we recommend that you change your toothbrush immediately.

The reason is simple. The toothbrush is a marvelously efficient mechanism for transferring germs, including those associated with the common cold and flu. It is truly a marvel of engineering — simple, yet very specific in design.

Today's toothbrush handle is larger than those used years ago. They are often made with a grooved, rubberized component that is easier to hold, particularly for small children or people with arthritis.

However, these grooved, rubberized components also absorb and hold onto germs from colds and flu much more efficiently than



Dr. Fuad Karim
Dental Surgeon

older models of toothbrushes ever did. Children easily transmit those germs when they pass toothbrushes between each other. That is why we recommend getting rid of a toothbrush after you recover from a cold and flu.

But why limit your concern to protecting against the spread of cold and flu germs? Many other germs find their way onto a toothbrush. There is no reason that we would want to spread those germs any more than we would want to spread cold and flu germs. Yet we would hardly want to treat a toothbrush as a disposable item we throw away after each use.

Instead, the best method we know of to remove most of those germs is to simply place your toothbrush in the utensil rack of your dishwasher and run it on a regular cycle. Studies have shown this to be an effective method to remove debris and, more importantly, reduce germs that would otherwise be left behind.

For those who do not own a dishwasher, boiling a brush in water for 1 minute is also an effective alternative. The dishwasher is the best alternative for home care. However, if it is not an option for you, boiling the toothbrush is better than taking no steps at all. And any method that reduces the spread of germs running rampant through the house is definitely worth considering.

So it is not too late to add one more resolution to your list this New Year. Make 2009 the year you resolve to reduce the spread of germs in your family by taking care of your toothbrush... because taking care of your toothbrush is a healthy habit...and healthy habits lead to healthy lives.

Dr. Fuad Karim - Dental Surgeon



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Madagascar leads foreign box office

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa led the foreign box office for the fourth time in five weekends as the overseas tally for the animal cartoon raced to \$340 million US — about \$2 million more than the final total of its 2005 predecessor. **REUTERS**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



Celeb twins

Rebecca Romijn and husband Jerry O'Connell have welcomed twin girls, Howard Stern announced on his Sirius radio show yesterday morning.

USMAGAZINE.COM

Travolta undergoes autopsy

Two pathologists appointed by Bahamian authorities performed an autopsy yesterday on the body of actor John Travolta's 16-year-old son, Jett, who died last week after suffering a seizure at the family's holiday home.

Jett, who had a history of seizures, was found unconscious in a bathroom at the home in the Old Bahama Bay resort on Grand Bahama Island on Friday morning. He was pronounced dead after being taken by ambulance to Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport.

A family doctor sat in on the autopsy at the request of the Travolta family. Results were not released.

However, other media outlets reported Travolta's death certificate says he was killed by a seizure.

Obie Wilchcombe, a



Actor John Travolta, second left, poses with daughter Ella Bleu, left, wife Kelly Preston, right, and son Jett in an undated family photo.

member of parliament for western Grand Bahama, said the autopsy was completed at around noon and paperwork was finished two hours later.

Jett's body was moved from Rand Memorial Hos-

pital to Restview Funeral Home in Freeport, where it was being prepared for transport to the United States, Wilchcombe said.

"The preparation of the body will take an estimated 12 to 13 hours," he said.



For the latest on this story, visit metronews.ca/entertainment

Dozens of relatives flew to Grand Bahama to comfort John Travolta and his wife, actress Kelly Preston, Wilchcombe said.

John Travolta and paramedics tried without success to resuscitate the boy.

The family's earlier statement did not refer to Jett's medical history or possible cause of death. But Travolta's lawyers, Michael Ossi and Michael McDermott, were quoted on Sunday as saying Jett apparently suffered from grand mal seizures, which can cause loss of consciousness.

He was on an anti-seizure medication called Depakote for several years, Ossi and McDermott told the celebrity website TMZ.

REUTERS

DVD picks

Pineapple Express

Director: David Gordon Green
Rating: 18A

IN A PERFECT world, stoner comedies would be enjoyed in a theatre converted into a giant bong. It's too often the case, as it is with Pineapple Express, that the tokers onscreen have a far better time than the sober judges in the seats. This should change with home DVD showings, where what you do in your basement is your own concern. Whatever is in the titular bud that Seth Rogen and James Franco are inhaling their enjoyment of it is almost selfish, since they're getting laughs that we are denied. But you need not worry about being locked into one style of yuks. Apatow is big on hybrid humour, and so apparently is his unlikely di-



rectorial disciple David Gordon Green. Pineapple Express is both a stoner-laugh and a bloody crime satire about duelling drug lords and crooked cops. The body count is large and the violence is quite nasty. Luckily, Franco's sleepy-eyed dealer Saul is one of those sweet discoveries that makes you willing to forgive the film's flaws. Saul dispenses drugs to Rogen's Dale, a process server whose brazen methods are at odds with his conservative demeanour. Things get complicated, and then some, and the movie gets more violent and less funny as it goes along.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



what's cooking

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WED 11:30 A.M. E/P
SAT 1:30 P.M. E/P

W

NETWORK



Kevin Federline is looking into a new line of work. The former Britney Spears backup dancer and husband is reportedly set to launch a line of children's clothing called Otzi, according to People magazine. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Whitaker drafted for Stallone film

MOVIES Sylvester Stallone may have his man. Forest Whitaker is negotiating to join the cast of the action film *The Expendables*, Stallone's latest writing and directing effort.

Whitaker would play the CIA liaison for a group of mercenaries (played by Stallone, Jet Li, Randy Couture and Jason Statham) who are clandestinely sent to South America to overthrow a dictator.

Expendables is the first project in Stallone's two-picture deal with Nu Image/Millennium. He last wrote and directed *Rambo*, which took \$155 million in worldwide grosses.

North America sets ticket record

MOVIES It was a photo finish, but North American movie-ticket sales hit the wire in a furious gallop to post an annual gain of almost 2 per cent, with a record haul of \$9.78 billion in estimated grosses. Industry estimates put average ticket prices at about \$7.20 US, or almost 4.7 per cent higher than in 2007. About 1.36 billion tickets were sold in the U.S. and Canada in 2008. That compares with a total 1.40 billion in 2007. **REUTERS**

In brief

TV A relative unknown will take over the title role of Doctor Who in the British science fiction television show, making him the 11th time lord in 45 years to travel across the universe in the Tardis time-ship. Matt Smith, 26, will make his debut in 2010, replacing David Tennant who leaves at the end of this year. **REUTERS**

The new year in film

Superheroes and superstars are set to hit the big screen in 2009

The following are the **Torstar News Service's** picks for some of the most interesting films scheduled for release this year.

POLYTECHNIQUE (FEB. 6): A drama to dread as much as to anticipate, dealing with a horrific chapter of Canadian history still fresh in many minds: the Montreal Massacre of Dec. 6, 1989, when 14 women were killed, and 10 women and four men injured, by deranged gunman Marc Lépine at the École Polytechnique.

WATCHMEN (MARCH 6): Lauded as the best and also the grimmest graphic novel ever published, Alan Moore's serialized tale of Cold War superheroes is set to reach the big screen after numerous setbacks.

Directed by Zack Snyder, whose 300 was certainly graphic, it's set in a mid-1980s America where vigilante superheroes fight crime, conspiracies and their own mixed emotions, all while the nuclear "Doomsday Clock" ticks towards Armageddon between the U.S. and Russia.

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (MARCH 27): DreamWorks Animation vows to come out swinging with reborn and revised 3-D technology in 2009, and the leadoff batter is this comedy of Earth freaks versus outer-space geeks. Directed by Rob Letterman (*Shrek 2*), the film is loaded with inside jokes guaranteed to



Patrick Wilson as Nite Owl II, Malin Akerman as Silk Spectre II and Jackie Earle Haley as Rorschach in a scene from *Watchmen*.

twirl the beanie propellers of sci-fi fans.

STAR TREK (MAY 8): Will this reboot of the Star Trek film franchise blandly go where so many instalments have gone before? The premise of starting the whole damn thing over, right back to rocket class when Spock first met Kirk, has blockbuster chops and the ability to cross the TV-cinema divide with director J.J. Abrams.

PUBLIC ENEMIES (JULY 1): Michael Mann's movies are always interesting, even when they don't completely work, and how could he miss with both the pirate Johnny Depp and the Batman Christian Bale in his corner? Depp plays gangster John Dillinger to Bale's G-man Melvin Purvis in this adaptation of Bryan Burrough's book *Public Enemies: America's Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933-34*.

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (AUG. 21): Quentin Tarantino is determined to annoy newspaper copy editors (and nitpicking readers) with that deliberately misspelled title. It's a double-barrelled story about a team of prisoner-soldiers sent to open a can of whup-ass on a band of Nazis, while a Jewish woman seeks to avenge the deaths of her parents caused by the same swastika scum. The story reteams *Troy* stars Brad Pitt and Diane Kruger, with a cameo by Mike Myers.

JENNIFER'S BODY (SEPT. 18): Was Juno a one-off for Oscar-winning screenwriter Diablo Cody? We'll find out when her smartass brand of comedy takes a horrific turn with this yarn about a Minnesota cheerleader (Transformers' Megan Fox) who becomes demon-possessed and dangerously attractive to local farm lads.

AMELIA (OCT. 23): Female heroes don't often get their due, so this biopic about the late, great flying ace Amelia Earhart is long overdue. There have been only a handful of previous film and TV treatments of the daredevil pilot whose 1937 disappearance during a globe-circling flight still fuels many a conspiracy theory. Hilary Swank stars in the title role, a casting choice that looks ideal on paper and Mira Nair (*Monsoon Wedding*) directs.

THE FANTASTIC MR. FOX (NOV. 6): This is Wes Anderson's first animated film, a stop-motion one at that. It's based on a Roald Dahl children's classic about a wily fox seeking to outwit three brainless farmers. Check out the voice artists: George Clooney as Mr. Fox, Cate Blanchett as Mrs. Fox, Bill Murray as Mr. Badger and other characters played by Meryl Streep and Anjelica Huston.

THE WOLF MAN (NOV. 6): The world doesn't need another horror picture, but who can resist Benicio Del Toro as El

Gran Lobo himself? It's directed by Joe Johnston, who showed much promise with *Hidalgo* and *October Sky*, and it also stars Anthony Hopkins, Hugo Weaving and Emily Blunt. It's an original story, taking it right back to the bearded basics on the soggy moors of Victorian England.

SHERLOCK HOLMES (NOV. 20): This has every chance of being a ripping good yarn if Guy Ritchie can reign in his usual Blighty triteness. Here again casting is key: a revived Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes, Jude Law as Watson and Rachel McAdams as the love interest.

AVATAR (DEC. 18): Canuck-born writer/director James Cameron had better have something good up his sleeve with this sci-fi saga, which has been in the works so long it was beginning to look like his big boat blockbuster would be his feature film swan song. Sigourney Weaver, Michelle Rodriguez, Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana star in this outer-space survival epic. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



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Hootin' Hugh

Hugh Jackman will voice an owl in a new movie. The star will reportedly voice a character in animated film Guardians Of Ga'Hoole. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



Get set for new time-slot tussles

Soon new battles will wage in primetime: ABC's hit thriller *Lost* against Fox's new crime drama *Lie to Me* on Wednesdays. NBC's comedy favorite *The Office* vs. Fox's reality hit *Hell's Kitchen* on Thursdays. And Fox's sci-fi drama *Dollhouse* competing with CBS' Canadian import *Flashpoint* on Fridays, to name a few.

But in today's time-shifted, multichannel universe, does it still matter if Drama A airs in the same time period as Reality Show B?

Yup, arguably more than ever. Most viewers still watch TV shows live. But more importantly, with the ratings standard for what makes a hit broadcast series dropping, how well a show stacks up against competitors is often considered a fairer measurement of success than whether a show draws a huge audience. Here are some of the more intriguing new face-offs on the midseason schedule:

Mondays
ABC's *The Bachelor* and *True Beauty* vs. NBC's *Superstars of Dance* and



A scene from ABC's hit thriller *Lost*, which will duke it out against Fox's new crime drama *Lie to Me* on Wednesdays.

Momma's Boys:

Bachelor has ebbed in recent years, while Superstars brings the American Idol producers to NBC. At 10 p.m., *Beauty* — about 10 attractive contestants tricked into believing they're being evaluated for their looks but who are actually being judged by their civility — will go up against *Momma's Boys*, which has had a modest December run.

Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
ABC's *Homeland Security* USA vs. NBC's *Biggest Loser*

Curiosity online about *Homeland Security* is running high, but *Loser* is one of the few strong NBC primetime offerings that's shown no signs of weakening.

Wednesdays at 9 p.m.
ABC's *Lost* vs. Fox's *Lie to Me* vs. CBS' *Criminal Minds*
This three-way standoff

pits Fox's keystone new show against CBS' usual time-period winner — both crime procedurals — and then there's ABC's strongly rated *Lost* returning after airing Thursdays during the writers strike last year.

Thursdays from 8-10 p.m.
Fox's *Bones* and *Hell's Kitchen* vs. NBC comedies

With rivals airing their strongest shows Thursday night, Fox has been unable to get a consistent foothold on this advertiser-rich evening. Durable reality series *Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?* and *Don't Forget the Lyrics* serve as cannon fodder for hits like ABC's *Grey's Anatomy* and CBS' *Survivor*.

Enter *Bones* and *Hell's Kitchen*, two recent time-period winners Fox is shifting to TV's toughest night. The crime drama has been strong this season on Wednesdays, and the Gordon Ramsay cooking competition series has grown its numbers every year.

Thursdays at 10 p.m.
CBS' *Harper's Island* vs.

NBC's *Kings*

Dueling question marks. CBS' new Agatha Christie-meets-Scream series against NBC's freshman neo-biblical courtesan drama? Normally the fresher idea has the edge, but what's great about these shows is there's nothing like either of them on TV.

Fridays at 9 p.m.
CBS' *Flashpoint* vs. Fox's *Dollhouse*

Like comparing a Buick to a funnel cake. Here's CBS' modestly rated, yet seemingly nuclear-blast-proof Canadian import competing with Fox's fallen midseason angel. After trying *Moonlight* and *The Ex* List in this slot, Friday leader CBS hopes *Flashpoint* can finally fill this ratings pothole.

With its other weekday slots occupied by more promising titles, Fox placed the softening sci-fi drama *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles* and creatively overhauled freshman series *Dollhouse* onto the Friday wall in hopes they might stick.

REUTERS

ABC brings *Scrubs*' 8th season to life

TELEVISION Here it is, season eight of *Scrubs* — the one that never was supposed to happen. Like *Diff'rent Strokes* more than 20 years ago, the hospital sitcom has defected from NBC to ABC for what is presumed to be its final season. Or maybe not.

The show hits the ground in midseason form after eight months and one change of venue, integrating a new crop of interns with seamless aplomb and again demonstrating how to fuse dramatic elements into a sitcom without breaking a sweat.

It rolls onto ABC with a two-episode premiere assault. First up is an episode featuring the heartless and unethical Dr. Maddox, a new recurring character played by Courteney Cox.

She's surrounded by the usual cast of returning *Scrubs* players led by Zach Braff along with Sarah Chalke, Donald Faison, John C. McGinley and Judy Reyes. The second episode guest stars Glynn Turman as a dying patient coming to terms with his mortality.

REUTERS

New hi-def TVs to stream Netflix in U.S.

MOVIES LG Electronics will soon launch new high-definition TVs in the U.S. that can stream Netflix movies directly from the internet without an external box. Last year, the DVD rental company and the electronics giant introduced set-top boxes and Blu-ray DVD players with the same software. Netflix has announced other partnerships, including one with Microsoft's Xbox 360 to embed the movie software in its game consoles.

REUTERS

IntelleVision



WILL RETURN

GlobalStyle



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See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

critics'corner

Wild Roses

Set in Alberta, this soapy new prime-time drama tells the story of two families feuding over a ranch. David McGregor is the oil executive with his eyes on the property, called Rivercross. He's also got an eye for Maggie Henry, a member of the clan that's called the land home for generations. 9 PM on 8 CBC



The Biggest Loser

Who can diet best? The answer is determined among the contestants in this unscripted series, which returns tonight for a new season. Each team has a trainer to implement fitness and nutrition regimens and see them through. Alison Sweeney hosts. 8 PM on 9 NBC 18 E!

Altered by Elvis

There's more to some Elvis fans than just making a yearly pilgrimage to Graceland. This 2006 documentary from directors Tiffany and Jayce Bartok follows the lives of those who are still feeling the effects of having loved or hated the King — including the guy who styled the deceased Elvis' hair prior to burial. 9 PM on 40 BVO

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
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		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS "Caged" (N)	90210 (HDTV) (N)	Kitchen Nightmares		News (N)
		-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	La Factice (N)	Providence (N) (SC)	Roxy (N) (SC)	Grosse vie (N)		La Zone
		209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Cold Case	Law & Order			News (N)
		196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Fringe "Power Hungry"	(9:01) Fringe			News (N)
		208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	Wild Roses "Pilot" (N)		The Hour
		-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Biggest Loser One contestant has a health scare.				News (N)
		117	713	10	TVA	Les Gags	Histoires-filles	La Fievre de la danse (SC)	La Promesse (SC)			
		-	-	11	QS	Catherine (SC)	Piége Zézé	Le Grand rire Bleue (SC)	Men in Trees: leçons			
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		-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		NCIS "Caged" (N)	The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)			
		216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case "The River"		News (N)	News (N)			
		214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Privileged (HDTV) (N)	Scrubs			
		115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)	Vivere II	News (N)		
		218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Biggest Loser One contestant has a health scare.				
		-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Homeland Security USA	Scrubs			
		512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique			
		651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show	100 Huntley Street			
		-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	House "Lucky Thirteen"	(9:01) Fringe			
		-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Snowtrails TV	Nova (DVS)	Frontline (N) (DVS)			
news		205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Fringe "Power Hungry"	(9:01) Fringe			
		502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National			
		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live			
		406	417	27	net	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Buffalo Sabres. (Live)			UFC: Access			
		126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)	Le Téléjournal (SC)			
		400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Florida Panthers at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					
		410	403	52	SCR	Cabby Unlimit	Score Update	College Football GMAC Bowl -- Ball State vs. Tulsa. From Mobile, Ala. (Live)				
		411	457	56	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman	Mantracker			
		417	406	59	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!		
		554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama		
		557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Life Derek		
		551	542	65	YTV	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol		
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		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Addiction"		The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48 (HDTV)			
		628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	UFC Unleashed			
		521	560	34	TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate		
		145	761	35	TV5	Questions pour un champion		Chez Maupassant	Facteur	D'Est en Ouest		
		616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Mutant X	Testees	Trailer Park		
		620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Live at the Rehearsal Hall	Altered by Elvis			
cable variety		520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		How It's Made	Destroyed	Time Warp (N)		
		575	583	43	CMT	Canada Countdown		Home Improve.	Home Improve.			
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		625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas			
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Executive Decision *** (1996, Action)	Kurt Russell, Halle Berry.			
		600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Style	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	
		627	528	50	SPC	Lost "The Brig"		Lost	The Dresden Files			
		581	566	53	MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	A Double Shot of Love		
		618	524	54	TROP	Planet Soap	Big Screen	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	
		522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Hiatus"		Ultimate Engineering	Ax Men			
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		261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		Bless-Father	On the Buses			
		602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Extreme Skinny Celebrities	Style by Jury	Style by Jury		
		269	350	70	APTN	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay	Rez Rides			
		621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Look-A-Like	Off the Leash	
		603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover	The F Word			
										Good Eats	Good Eats	



Amy Winehouse is becoming a fashion designer, reports London newspaper The Sun. The singer has apparently been bragging that she is already in negotiations with Fred Perry, saying she has already sketched some designs for them. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Winehouse house of fashion?

Celebrity Buzz

Uncle Benji dishes about new niece

PEOPLE Harlow Winter Kate Madden won't be a year old until Jan. 11, but her uncle, Benji Madden, already has a warning for potential suitors, people.com reports. "I'm going to be keeping a close eye on her," Madden, 29, told People about the daughter of twin brother Joel Madden and his girlfriend Nicole Richie, 27. "I'll leave the shotgun right by the door."

People says the Good Charlotte guitarist is thrilled with the way Harlow's parents have been raising her so far. "When they had her, their instincts just kind of came out, and it's amazing to see," he said. "They just really put their child above everything."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity scares at New Years

SCARE Kate Hudson and Mariah Carey spent New Year's Eve amidst bomb threats, femalefirst.co.uk is reporting. Four homemade bombs were planted around celebrity retreats in Aspen, Colo., according to The New York Post.

Goldie Hawn, Nick Cannon and Jack Nicholson are also said to have been in the area, reports the website, adding a local businessman is suspected of planting the bombs.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

David and Nicole a couple?

RELATIONSHIP Eonline.com is reporting that Nicollette Sheridan and David Spade are a couple, noting the two had dinner together on Saturday in the Palazzo in Las Vegas.

"Although there wasn't major PDA, they definitely were affectionate throughout their meal," a source reportedly told the website.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kate pregnant?

BABY Kate Moss is reportedly pregnant, according to femalefirst.co.uk

The supermodel — who has a six-year-old daughter, Lila Grace, with ex-boyfriend Jefferson Hack — fuelled rumours she is expecting a baby after she was seen clutching her stomach while on holiday in Thailand with partner Jamie Hince, the gossip website reports.

A source said: "Even though she had a cigarette in her hand, Kate definitely looks as though she's expecting."

"She was

walking with Jamie and Lila but kept putting one hand on her stomach —

you could clearly see she has a bump there, even though she was wearing a baggy top."

Friends were expecting the 34-

year-old British beauty to announce her pregnancy last month when she and Jamie threw a party at her Cotswolds home, the website says.

Prior to the bash, a source close to Kate — who is rumoured to have given up drinking — said: "Kate has been on the phone to all her friends and her assistant has been on the case to her family."

"Kate has had a few big nights out recently but she has been behaving more than usual. Even Simon Cowell said she had a bit of a tummy when she went to watch his show The X Factor."

However, the bash passed with no major announcement, the website reports.



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pete fights paranoia

PEOPLE Pete Wentz is always paranoid, according to femalefirst.co.uk. The Fall Out Boy rocker struggles to control his anxiety and says medication no longer helps his problem, the website reports, adding the he admitted: "I'm paranoid pretty much all the time. I can take three Xanax and not feel a thing."

Pete — whose wife Ashlee Simpson gave birth to their first child, son Bronx Mowgli, in November — also revealed he has stopped reading about himself online because the barrage of criticism gets him down.

He added to Blender

magazine: "I was letting the blogs get to me. It's semi-frustrating when your name actually becomes a synonym for douche bag."

Pete's decision to avoid blogs may help with his new year's resolution, the website says, adding the 29-year-old musician has vowed to control his language around his family.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



ScarJo eager to age as actress

CAREER Scarlett Johansson enjoys working with Woody Allen because he doesn't care about her age, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 24-year-old star — who has collaborated with the director on three movies, Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Scoop and Match Point — is looking forward to getting older because she believes she will get offered more interesting parts, but says working with Woody has already given her experiences she didn't expect to have at her age.

She explained: "I hope to work with him

again. I would do his craft service, really. I feel like we work very well together, because we're very comfortable with each other. Because we're friends, and we challenge each other."

"I'm in a strange kind of age group. But I'm looking very much forward to growing older in this industry, probably contrary to popular belief."

"I feel like there's a lot of opportunity for women that are a bit older than me."

"A lot of the actors that I really admire are probably ten or 15 years older than me, and just have wonderful opportunities."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Gwyneth on new year's detox plan

HEALTH Gwyneth Paltrow has embarked upon a post-Christmas detox, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actress is taking drastic measures to shift the excess pounds she gained over the festive period.

In the most recent e-mail from her goop.com website, Gwyneth wrote: "I need to lose a few pounds of holiday excess. I will be suffering along with you to kickstart my year a bit lighter — good luck to us all!"

According to re-

ports, banned substances in Gwyneth's post-holiday diet include: Dairy, gluten, meat, shellfish, all processed food, fatty nuts, potatoes and other related vegetables, condiments, sugar, alcohol, caffeine or fizzy drinks.

However, the 36-year-old actress has warned anyone planning to detox to seek medical advice before starting, adding, "Make sure you check with your doctor before you start any detox. Drink a lot of water."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Tara 'doing well': Source

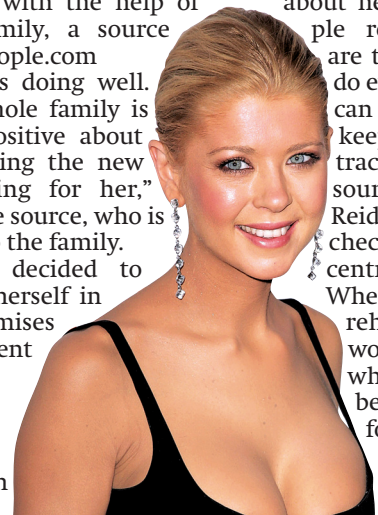
PEOPLE Tara Reid checked into rehab last month and is getting her life back together with the help of her family, a source tells people.com

"She's doing well. The whole family is very positive about this being the new beginning for her," says the source, who is close to the family.

Reid decided to check herself in to Promises Treatment Centre, and though she's been in

treatment less than a month, her family and friends are optimistic about her future, People reports. "They are taking steps to do everything they can to help Tara keep on the right track," adds the source, who says Reid is expected to check out of the centre shortly. When she entered rehab her rep would not reveal what Reid was being treated for.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Say no to drive-thru Vegas weddings, Carmen says

ADVICE After a couple of failed marriages under her belt, Carmen Electra feels comfortable dishing out a smart suggestion, people.com reports.

"My advice to anyone is to not get married in Vegas," she told People. "Do not get married at the drive-thru in Vegas, especially. Take your time — enjoy it!"

Electra, 36, adds: "It's important to think out marriage in general because

it's a huge commitment. Besides that, I hate to say it, but it's a lot of paperwork and a lot of emotions. It can be difficult."

Electra married former NBA All-Star Dennis Rodman in 1998 and filed for an annulment just nine days later. Now Electra, who also was once hitched to rocker Dave Navarro, is engaged to former Korn guitarist Rob Patterson, 38. But they have no plans to marry any time soon.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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